



H.R. 2063 – Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2063 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) on April 26, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Energy and Commerce and was reported out by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 2063 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2063 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to consult with the Secretary of Education to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy reactions and anaphylaxis in schools. The legislation directs the Secretary to establish, within a year, a set of guidelines that can be followed by schools and educational programs on a voluntary basis. These guidelines will be used by teachers and parents in order to monitor and control food related allergies. Included in the guidelines the Secretary must also address the use of epinephrine and how to properly train school officials to administer it, should a child go into anaphylactic shock.

BACKGROUND

Currently there are no Federal guidelines concerning the management of life-threatening food allergies in the school setting. Congress has found that three-quarters of the elementary school nurses surveyed reported developing their own training guidelines and that many schools do not employ a full time nurse, leaving the teachers to treat students. In a study of food allergy reactions in schools and day-care settings, delays in treatment were attributed to a failure to follow emergency plans, calling parents instead of administering emergency medications, and an inability to administer epinephrine to prevent anaphylactic shock from occurring.

Food-allergic reactions are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting, accounting for an estimated 30,000 emergency room visits, 2,000 hospitalizations, and 150 to 200 deaths each year in the United States. Anaphylaxis causes the lungs to constrict making it impossible to breathe.

STAFF CONTACT

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